

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on December 11, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks and arguments are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing first and second current sensing circuits as recited in independent claims 1, 4 and 6. It is respectfully submitted that drawings do show these features. For example, FIGS 1 and 4 show a first sensing circuit comprising a first current transformer CT_1 connected between a rail line and an output node, which is connected to the lamp LA through a lamp inductor L_{HBCF} . FIGS 1 and 4 also show a second sensing circuit comprising a second current transformer CT_2 connected between the output node and ground. As shown in FIGS 1 and 4, the secondary windings of the two current transformers CT_1 , CT_2 are connected in series for providing a combined signal representative of the converter current to the lamp LA through the lamp inductor L_{HBCF} . Thus, the drawings,

such as FIGs 1 and 4, do show the two current transformers CT₁, CT₂ as recited in independent claims 1, 4 and 6. Accordingly withdrawal of this objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,437,519 (Ito). Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ito in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,030 (Ito-030). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ito in view of Ito-030 and U.S. Patent No. 6,107,753 (Qian). Claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ito in view Qian. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 and 9-15 are patentable over Ito, Ito-030 and Qian for at least the following reasons.

Ito is directed to a lighting circuit 1 including a DC power supply circuit 3 having two DC-DC converters 3A, 3B, a DC-AC conversion circuit 4, and a control circuit 8, shown in FIG 1. Two resistors 7A, 7B are placed immediately following the two DC-DC converters 3A, 3B for detecting the output voltage. FIG 2 shows

the DC power supply circuit 3 in greater detail, where a transformer T is provided.

Assuming arguendo that the resistors 7A, 7B and/or the transformer T are equivalent to the current-determining circuit as recited in independent claims 1, 4 and 6, the Ito resistors 7A, 7B are connected in series where the common node is grounded. Similarly, an intermediate tap between two halves of the secondary winding Ts of the transformer T is grounded.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 7 and 4 and 6, amongst other patentable elements requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein the current-determining circuit comprises a first current sensing circuit for sensing the current in a first position between the rail and the output node and a second current sensing circuit for sensing the current in a second position between the output node and ground.

These features are nowhere taught or suggested in Ito. Rather Ito discloses sensing current between one rail and ground, and between another rail and ground. Ito-030 and Qian are cited in rejecting dependent claims to allegedly show other features and

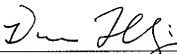
does not remedy the deficiencies in Ito.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 4 and 6 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 5, 7 and 9-15 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1, 4 and 6 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101